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REMARKS

This Second Preliminary Amendment is submitted to present the above amendments, and is further responsive in any other manner indicated below.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended at the information submitted on page 1 in the Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed 10 March 2004, to correct a minor error in the section. No new matter is added.

PENDING CLAIMS

Unrelated to any cited art, scope or rejection in any prior application, Claims 1-19 have been cancelled (without prejudice or disclaimer), and new Claims 20-27 are presented herein to adjust a clarity and/or focus of Applicant's claimed invention. That is, Claims 20-27 are simply clarified claims in which Applicant is presently interested, and which substantially parallel many of the features/limitations of the previously-pending claims. For example, many features/limitations in new Claim 20 parallel the features/limitations in previous Claim 2, and Claim 20 finds support throughout the application as filed, e.g., at page 7, second paragraph.

Upon entry of this paper, Claims 20-27 will be pending for consideration and examination in the present application.

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RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer. That is, any above statements, or any present amendment or cancellation of claims (all made without prejudice or disclaimer), should not be taken as an indication or admission that any objection/rejection was valid, or as a disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

This Second Preliminary Amendment is being filed prior to the mailing of an Action on the merits in this case. Further, the new claims presented herein total less than 20, which include less than a total of 3 independent claims, so no additional filing/claim fees are required. Please charge any actual required fees for entry of this

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paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No.
500.38056CC3).

Respectfully submitted,



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